

Appl. No. 10/660,422
Amendment and Response dated July 13, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of May 7, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for generating an effective configuration for a managed product comprising:

generating a configuration object for a managed product, said configuration object specifying a configuration for a said managed product using a configuration object, said configuration object representing a certain behavior or desired functional state for a software feature of said managed product; and

generating a derived configuration object of said configuration object, said derived configuration object representing a modification to said configuration for said managed product using a derived configuration object of said configuration object,

wherein said configuration object and said derived configuration object comprise a configuration object inheritance chain; and

processing said configuration object inheritance chain using a parent-child inheritance merge process to obtain an effective configuration for said managed product,

wherein said parent-child inheritance merge process resolves collisions between elements of said configuration object and elements of said derived configuration object having the same collision detection name and merges the configuration

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